

What is claimed is:

1. A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:

5 determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
assigning a password to an image to be concealed;
setting concealment to the image to be concealed;
photographing an image;
10 digitizing the photographed image;
storing the digitized image; and
not displaying the image set to be concealed when the camera is in an image reproduction mode.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed,
determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
setting concealment to the image set to be concealed;
20 assigning a password to the image set to be concealed; and
not displaying the image set to be concealed.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be
25 concealed has been selected;
allowing a password to be input;
finding the image set to be concealed if the assigned password matches the input password; and
displaying the found concealed image.

30 4. The method of claim 2, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

35 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed has been selected;
allowing a password to be input;

finding the image set to be concealed if the assigned password matches the input password; and
displaying the found concealed image.

5 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the option for displaying information on the image set to be concealed is selected by selecting a concealed-image-view menu item.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format.

15 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the digitized image is stored on a memory card.

 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the camera is in an image reproduction mode.

20 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
if the camera is not in an image reproduction mode, repeating the steps of determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
assigning a password to an image to be concealed;
setting concealment to the image to be concealed;
25 photographing an image;
digitizing the photographed image; and
storing the digitized image.

30 11. A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:
assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera;
determining whether to conceal image information acquired during photographing of an image using the digital camera;
35 setting concealment to the image to be concealed;
photographing an image;
digitizing the photographed image;
storing the digitized image; and

not displaying the image set to be concealed when the camera is in a reproduction mode.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
if image concealment is not set before an image is photographed,
determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while
the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
setting concealment to the image set to be concealed; and
not displaying the image set to be concealed.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein a user determines whether to set concealment of image information by directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file format for a digital camera.

14. A method of concealing image information in a digital camera comprising:
assigning a password for setting image information concealment of the digital camera;
determining whether to conceal image information acquired during
photographing of an image using the digital camera;
photographing an image;
digitizing the photographed image;
storing the digitized image in a concealment folder; and
not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder when the camera
is in a reproduction mode.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
if image concealment is not selected before an image is photographed,
determining whether to conceal the image, the determination occurring while
the image is displayed in the reproduction mode after photographing;
moving the image set to be concealed to the concealment folder and storing
the image in the concealment folder; and
not displaying the image stored in the concealment folder.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining if an option for displaying information on the image chosen to be concealed has been selected;
allowing a password to be input;

searching the concealment folder and finding the image set to be concealed
if the assigned password matches the input password; and
displaying the found concealed image.

5 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
 determining if an option for displaying information on the image chosen to be
concealed has been selected;
 allowing a password to be input;
 searching the concealment folder and finding the image set to be concealed
10 if the assigned password matches the input password; and
 displaying the found concealed image.

15 18. A digital camera capable of concealing image information comprising:
 a main body having a lens portion and a display portion;
 a shutter installed at one side of the main body;
 a concealment setting input portion installed at one side of the main body
that allows a user to determine whether to set concealment of image information by
directly setting an application marker included in an Exif header in an Exif file
format.

20 19. The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:
 a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting.

25 20. A digital camera capable of concealing image information comprising:
 a main body having a lens portion and a display portion;
 a shutter installed at one side of the main body;
 a concealment setting input portion installed at one side of the main body to
store an image set to be concealed in a concealment folder in a storage medium.

30 21. The digital camera of claim 20, further comprising:
 a password input portion to input a password for concealment setting.

 22. The digital camera of claim 20, wherein the storage medium is a
memory card.